

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Cancelled).**

2. **(Currently Amended)** [[Base]] The process according to claim 3, wherein in said base particles of step (c) having have an average particle size of from 150 to 400 μm , comprising 20 to 80% by weight of a water-soluble solid alkali inorganic substance and a zeolite in an amount of 10% by weight or less, wherein the base particles are obtained by a spray drying method.

3. **(Currently Amended)** A process for preparing detergent particles comprising the steps of:

- (a): preparing a slurry comprising a water-soluble solid alkali inorganic substance (A) in an amount equal to or greater than 4 times the amount equivalent for neutralizing a liquid acid precursor (B) of a non-soap anionic surfactant to be added in step (c), and a zeolite in an amount of 10% by weight or less;
- (b): spray-drying the slurry obtained in step (a) to give base particles; and
- (c): mixing the liquid acid precursor (B) with the base particles obtained in step (b) and dry-neutralizing the resulting mixture, wherein the detergent particles have a bulk density of 600 g/L or less 150 to 446 g/L.

4. (Original) The process for preparing detergent particles according to claim 3, further comprising the step of:

(d) adding a fluidizing aid (C) to the detergent particles obtained in step (c), thereby surface-modifying the detergent particles.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Cancelled).

8. (New) The process according to claim 3, wherein the detergent particles have 20% by weight or more of component (B).

9. (New) The process according to claim 3, wherein the detergent particles have 20% to 80% by weight of component (A).

10. (New) The process according to claim 3, wherein the detergent particles have 10% by weight or less of nonionic surfactants.